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No. 5

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of every good and perfect gift, we thank You for the opportunity on yesterday to reflect on how to strive for a more perfect Union.

On an ominous anniversary, You provided us time to meditate on the question, Where do we go from here, chaos or community? Lord, grant that the searching of our hearts will lead our lawmakers toward greater unity and cooperation, enabling them to find creative strategies to keep our Nation strong.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

### FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in support of legislation that is critical to our democracy, the Freedom to Vote Act, which I introduced this year with many Senators who worked together through the summer to come up with a bill that would make a difference for our country, with input from secretaries of state across our country, election experts, in order to give the people of this country the right to vote, to protect the right to vote, and to make sure that they understood that they can vote anywhere from any ZIP Code in a safe way because right now, sadly, that is simply not the case in many States in our country.

If you are in North Carolina right now and you want to cast a mail-in ballot and you have COVID or you are in the hospital, you have to get a notary public to sign off on your ballot.

If you are in Georgia, and you don't register, you are a new resident there, you have moved there from another State, and you are in a big election, and you think, well, I am going to vote in the final place, you are no longer allowed to register in the last month as you were in the past during the runoff election.

As we saw in the last election in 2020 in Houston, in that county—5 million people—there was only one drop-off box in the entire county; Harris County, 5 million people, only one drop-off box.

There are places in States where you wait in line, 8, 10 hours in the hot Sun just to exercise your right to vote.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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